BRICK BOLDING.



A ROMANCE.

BRICK BOLDING;

OR,

WHAT IS LIFE?

AN

English, French, and Italian Romance.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

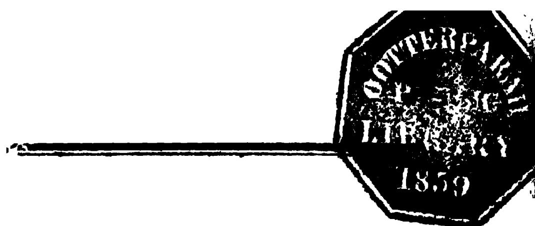
FROM THE FRENCH OF

PIGAULT LEBRUN.

Il y a un être invisible qui nous guide; et je ne sais pas, plus que vous, le confident des ses secrets.

VOL. II.

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BRICK BOLDING.



CHAP. I.

Latet anguis in herbâ.

AT this instant our door opened, and in an adjoining apartment we perceived a table very elegantly decorated, at which Adele was requested to take her seat. As there was only one cover, I said—

"I presume, Madam, it was supposed that I was not hungry?"

"Sir," said Adele, turning to a servant in waiting, "my woman always eats with me."

"My master would not affront you so much, Madam, as to set you down even with your own servants. If Mademoiselle will walk down stairs, she may call for whatever she likes."

"Then you had better do as you are desired, Rosa," said Adele with a significant smile.

I laughed in my sleeve, when an old woman, who might have passed for one of those duennas to whom guardians sometimes entrust their

wards,

wards, came in, and asked Adele whether she would be so obliging as to permit a stranger, who was just arrived, to sit down to supper with her.

"He is a very handsome young man," she added.

"A very handsome young man!" said I, looking at Adele.

"Yes; he lost his way in the forest," resumed the old woman, "when fortunately his postillion saw this house at a distance, and so brought him hither; and as he is very much fatigued, he wishes to retire early. He therefore hopes, good lady, that you will allow him to partake of your meal, else he may

may have some time to wait for his supper.—Petrino," turning to the servant in waiting, " place another cover upon the table; this lady can have no objection to supping in company."

" Positively, Madam, you are mistaken," replied Adele.

" Bless me! what can you have to fear, fair lady? I shall always be within call; and you will be doing me a real favour if you will but accommodate this traveller."

" At all events, my woman shall sit down to table with us, as I do not chuse to expose myself to a *tête-à-tête* with a young man."

" As you please for that, Madam. Bless me! the gentleman has followed

followed me up stairs: he was doubtless impatient to pay his respects to the beautiful French woman he understood was in the house."

Adele rose to receive the stranger. I did the same; when, to my infinite surprise, Mr. Corsini made his appearance.

"There must have been some *qui pro quo,*" thought I; "it therefore behoves me to be upon my guard, and to act prudently. He will certainly not recognise me, if I do not make myself known; and I should wish to learn how he came hither, and to whom this house belongs.

Adele, who had never seen him before, received him as she would have done a perfect stranger; but, perceiving my astonishment, she asked me in a whisper whether I knew him.

"I will tell you another time," I replied; while Corsini, having paid his compliments to her, seated himself at table, nearly opposite her, hoping he had not deranged her, &c. &c.

Not wishing to be exposed to his scrutiny, I affected to be busily employed in altering the situation of some handsome flower-pots, wishing, if possible, unsuspected, to learn

learn what were the designs of this mad-brained youth.

"Won't you sit down, Rosa?" said the uneasy Adele.

"Not yet, I am much obliged to you, Madam," I replied, without turning my head.

"Surely this gentleman's presence has not taken away your appetite?" she resumed.

"If I thought so, I would not intrude upon you a moment longer, fair lady," said Corsini, or rather Loredo; "only tell me to depart, and depend upon my obeying your orders."

Of course, as he expected, he was requested to remain.

"You are a French woman, Madam, I think I understood?" said he, wishing to become more intimate.

"Yes, Sir," replied the confused Adele, who was very much afraid of making some indiscreet answers to his very indiscreet questions.

"France is a charming country," he continued. "I have already visited it, and mean to do so again. You are not returning thither, Madam?—Probably you are going to Vienna?"

"No, Sir."

"How

"How rejoiced I should feel, were you inclined to bend your steps towards France; in which case, I should request to be admitted into your suite, and, I flatter myself, my company and conversation would prevent your feeling any *ennui* during your journey; besides, under my protection, your safety would be securely ascertained: indeed a male companion is often of great service to a traveller of your age and appearance."

"We are very courageous, Sir," said I; "and, at all events, we have no dread of robbers."

Corsini was surprised at my implied suspicion of his designs; but

without replying, he asked Adele whether she had found no difficulty in procuring horses to bring her forward.

"None at all, Sir."

"Then you were very fortunate, Madam; but I much fear you will not be so easily supplied, when you wish to depart from hence."

"We do not mean to proceed immediately," said I.

"Better and better," said he. "I am delighted to learn you mean to make some stay here."

The reader may perceive that Mr. Loredo required but little encouragement to treat us with the familiarity

of

of old acquaintances; and as I now recollected his projected attack upon his uncle's Castle, I also remembered his having boasted that Adele would fall to the share of the conqueror: and he, I perceived, fancied she was now, though I was still at a loss to guess by what means, completely in his power.

"I presume, ladies, you are entire strangers in this part of Italy? It shall therefore be my care to shew you every thing worthy notice in these environs."

"You are very obliging, Sir," said the astonished, disconcerted Adele; "but should I make any stay

here, I shall confine myself entirely to my own apartment."

"Like me, fair lady, you are an admirer of solitude. Indeed I detest noise and bustle: a few select friends, books, music, &c. are sufficient for my amusement.—You sing, I presume? There is an excellent piano in the next room. Possibly you are also the friend of the Muses. I have some pretensions to the title of poet, and you shall sit in judgment upon my verses."

"Sir," said Adele, rising, "you strangely forget yourself!"

"You positively wrong me, fair lady. Believe me, I feel the sincerest respect for you; I merely wish to

to contribute in every respect to your felicity,' since I must acknowledge I am not absolutely indebted to chance for having found you in a house where every soul will be as anxious as I am, to convince you of their regard and respect."

Judge what my feelings were at such a moment, since I was now convinced that we had indeed fallen into a snare of this young man's planning; in fact, common sense ought to have told me that we were not indebted to mere chance for our conveyance, nor for our polite reception at this elegant villa. Nevertheless, I resolved to defend Adele at every risk from the base attempts of

of this rash young man; who, having so plainly acknowledged his views, proceeded to declare his passion for the terrified Adele in the most hyperbolical terms.

"Leave me this instant, Sir," cried the angry girl, "nor dare any longer to insult me by your odious protestations of love!"

Far from obeying, Loredo fell at her feet, and Adele sought a refuge in my arms. Nearly suffocated with passion, I exclaimed—

"Leave the room, Mr. Loredo, if you wish to preserve your life!"

CHAP.

CHAP. II.

Mutat formas, non mutat animos.

ADELE was motionless in my arms. Loredo was upon one knee, his mouth open, and his arms extended; while my eyes were wandering round the room in search of either sword or pistol, with which to chastise his insolence, till the duration of Adele's fit induced me

to

to defer my vengeance till I had restored her once more to her senses.

While I was thus employed, Loredo slowly rose; and having minutely examined my features, stood amazed upon recognising his former friend Bolding in his now furious enemy.

"Yes, Sir," I cried, holding a smelling-bottle to the nose of Adele, "my name is Bolding, and I am the friend of this respectable lady, whom you have so grossly insulted, whom I have rescued from the tyranny of your vile uncle, since this is the very lady who you declared

declared should become the prize of the conqueror; but Heaven watched over her, and did not suffer her to fall, unprotected, into your hands! You are young, heedless, and regardless of consequences. I have acquired the right of speaking my sentiments."

"Mr. Bolding, you take advantage of our respective situations."

"By no means, Sir; I am now cool and collected, since I hope you intend to repair the error you have committed, by leaving me and this lady together, and by suffering us to quit a house where every one seems to be at your orders."

"I am quite shocked, absolutely confused, my dear Bolding; but I hope

hope your friend will soon be restored to her senses, and that she will, previous to my departure, pronounce my pardon."

Adele being very much recovered, he made his excuses in the politest manner, and she readily extended the olive-branch; and I assured him that he had convinced me he was the man of honour, therefore requested that he would inform us by what accident we had, it should appear, fallen into his power.

"We separated, if you recollect, the day before yesterday—you to go to the play, as I presumed, while I went to make the necessary preparations

preparations for the attack I meditated, which induced me, having made various enquiries, to dispatch several trusty scouts in pursuit of my dear uncle; but none of them obtained any intelligence respecting the road the good man had taken, when I thought it very possible he had bent his steps towards the Castle of Montano. Once more, therefore, I put my spies in motion, and this time they were more successful in their enquiries, since they met with a woodcutter at the entrance of the Forest of Strozzi, who told them that a carriage had broke down in the forest the morning before."

"It was your uncle's," said Adele. "We were obliged to remain some time in the forest; and but for the woodcutter you mention, we might have been there now: for he went in search of the necessary workmen to repair the damage the carriage had received."

"He boasted of his zeal," rejoined Loredo; "and as my uncle was not very generous, he did not, as he had desired, keep his secret; and I easily guessed who the travellers were, from his description. So, notwithstanding the Castle of Montano is more than thirty leagues from Venice, I set out early yesterday morning, attended by my valet, who had undertaken to deliver you

into

into my hands, in hopes of making his fortune. The postillion who drove me, was in my interest: in short, I flattered myself that my plan would be crowned with success. But while my valet was endeavouring to gain a footing in the Castle, I was reflecting what I should do with my prize; when I recollected that a brother officer of mine, the Signor Valerio, had a villa upon the banks of the Spazza, which you may perceive from these windows. Hither, therefore, I hastened, leaving the postchaise, and full instructions, with my valet.

"Valerio was to have set out for Parma this very morning; but at my request, he readily agreed to postpone

postpone his departure, and to second all my schemes. Forgive me, dearest Madam; but I had not the slightest idea of your being detained a prisoner within my uncle's Castle; nor had I the most distant thought that you were betrothed to my friend Bolding.

"But to proceed with my recital. Having induced Valerio to enter into all my plans, I returned to the spot where I had left my post-chaise, and learned from the postillion that my valet, having disguised himself in woman's clothes, had, by some means or other, gained admittance into the Castle. Delighted with this intelligence, I hastened back to give Valerio notice that he might

might soon expect to see you; and you certainly did make your appearance even sooner than I had dared to hope. My valet I have not seen since we separated; therefore I am at a loss to guess whether he is detained by my uncle, or whether, having learned that you, Madam, had made your escape, though no thanks to his dexterity, he is not rejoicing over the success of my plans in some neighbouring alehouse."

"I much fear he is retained as an hostage," said I, "by the angry Manfredino;" beginning to relate how and why I had been conveyed to the Castle of Montano; when the old woman, who had seemed so anxious

anxious to forward his culpable designs respecting my beloved Adele, rushed into the room, screaming—

"You are all lost and undone! Make your escape this moment, or Signor Valerio himself will not be answerable for your lives! Manfredino is at the head of all his household, and supported by all his vassals!"

"Well," said Loredo, though his very name had made us all shudder.

"Why, he is here, I tell you!" rejoined the old woman. "The house is already surrounded by his people!—He is enquiring for the young lady who has been forced from his Castle, who he is sure is here! Signor Valerio is vainly

endeavouring

endeavouring to pacify and mislead him. He declares he will search every room in the house, and, if prevented from so doing, he will burn it down, and every soul it contains!"

"Oh Heaven! what will become of us?" exclaimed the terrified Adele.

"Be under no apprehension," said Loredo; "I will go and speak to him."

"What will you be able to do or say in opposition to such a numerous host?" said I; "except indeed you wish to become their first victim!"

"It was I who led you into this dilemma," cried the generous youth, "and I will save you both,

or perish in the attempt! Only bring me either a sword or pistols, good woman."

The noise from without increased.

"Alas! they have broken into the house!" she exclaimed; and the report of fire-arms increased our alarm.

Seizing hold of Adele with one hand, I caught up a knife in the other, resolved to keep our oppressors at bay as long as possible, when the old woman, as if suddenly inspired, screamed—

"Only be quick, and follow me!" opening a door. "There, run down those private stairs, all three of you. At the bottom is a grating, which opens upon the banks of the river. Make free with my master's boat, and effect your escape, if possible."

Catching up the almost lifeless Adele, I ran down the stairs the old woman had indicated, followed by Loredo; but upon reaching the grate, we found it double locked. What was now to be done? Loredo, to whom despair lent increasing strength, made the greatest efforts to force it open, but all in vain; and Manfredino and his people were

now searching the apartments we had just quitted, for we distinctly heard their voices. To return would be madness, we conceived; yet, should we remain where we were, in the end our retreat would doubtless be discovered. What a situation!

But while we were consulting what we had best do, several people appeared on the outside of the grating, who we feared were in Manfredino's interest. One of them unlocked the gate. I brandished my knife, exclaiming—

"Rascals! if you dare——"

"Hush! hush!" they whispered; "you will betray yourselves.—Silence!"

"Who

"Who are you?"

"Your deliverers; so lose no time in making your escape."

"Is it possible?"

"Once more silence! Should you be overheard, it would be all over with you. Get into that boat, and away!"

"My friends, how much are we beholden to you!" said I, stepping into the boat, and placing Adele by my side.

Alas! the little bark could contain no more. This Loredo was the first to remark; he therefore conjured us to provide for our own safety, and to leave him to take his chance, presenting me, while

speaking, with a pocket-book, which he desired I would give, in his name, to the friend he had so unintentionally offended, and to whom he still caused so much uneasiness.

This delicate method of doing me so very essential a service, rendered me more than ever his fast friend; and I was endeavouring to express my gratitude, when the old woman came running towards us, and having cut the cord by which the boat was fastened, she obliged us to break up our conference. I could, therefore, only display my anxiety for Loredo's safety by signs, having, I believe, a presentiment of the misfortune that awaited him.

Manfredino

Manfredino soon made his appearance at one of the windows of the villa; and perceiving by what means we were making our escape, he ordered his people to fire upon us. Instantly several balls whistled in the air. Adele lost her senses, so great was her alarm; while I placed myself before her, resolved to defend her at every risk. But I could do nothing for the generous, but imprudent Loredo; who, not wishing to lose sight of us, was still upon the banks of the river, and who fell, mortally wounded, I made no doubt, during the first volley. Forgetting even the danger of Adele, I wished to have flown to his assistance, but I could find no

oars; I was therefore obliged to suffer the current of the water to convey me to a distance from the house we had so recently quitted, and the monster who had so unjustly endeavoured to detain us; but who I hoped would be tried for the murder of his nephew, resolving to lay a complaint against him myself, the moment I could do so with safety.

The sun was going down when we embarked, and in less than an hour we found ourselves completely in the dark, without knowing where we were, nor whither the current of the river Spazza would convey us.

Adele,

Adele, who had recovered from her fit, was nevertheless extremely weak and low; and I had nothing to give her, likely to raise her spirits. Twenty times was I tempted to jump into the water, and to endeavour, while swimming, to push the boat nearer the bank; but the rapidity of the current forced me to abandon that idea, and I was obliged to put my sole trust in Providence, when, to my great joy, I perceived several towers, which at first I conceived to be some pointed rocks, or the remains of some ancient volcano; for the night was too dark to allow us to distinguish the form of the building to which they belonged, though I presumed they

formed part of a Convent, or of a state prison, or possibly I conceived they might belong to some Castle, the habitation of some tyrannical Manfredino; when our little boat ran foul of a larger one, which was very near sinking us: but I laid such fast hold of the other boat, which was safely moored, that we were at last able to reach the shore. So behold us once more safely landed upon *terra firma*.

"Heavens be praised," cried I, "we are once more out of danger!"

Adele was no less grateful for our unexpected deliverance; and as the moon

moon had just risen, we perceived that we had landed upon a small island, and that the towers which I had remarked, formed part of a strong fortress, situated upon the banks of the Spazza. A fine lawn first presented itself to our view; and I advised Adele to sit down, and rest herself, while I went in search of some habitation where we might spend the night. She agreed to my proposal, and I walked towards the fortress; but the wide ditches by which it was surrounded, convinced me that we should not easily gain admittance there. I therefore continued my walk, and soon entered a little wood, which induced me to stop, fearful that I

 should

should lose my way, when I caught sight of a glimmering light, which enabled me to reach a small cottage, that I soon discovered to be a hermitage. I knocked at the wicket, but received no answer. Again I repeated my strokes, but equally in vain; when I heard a male voice singing a hymn to the Virgin, at no great distance. I made towards the sound, and soon perceived a man all in black.

"Heaven be praised!" said I, "'tis certainly the hermit. I could not have stumbled upon any body more likely to grant us a night's lodging."

In

In consequence of these hopes, I went up to him, to prefer my request, when, to my no small terror, and very great surprise, he fell, as I feared, dead at my feet. I wondered what could have alarmed him so strangely; when I recollected that I was still in my feminine attire, consequently all in white, and therefore presumed he had taken me for a ghost. I was convinced I had guessed right; for, upon my endeavouring to raise him, as he had not, as I had at first feared, departed this world for a better, he screamed most piteously, invoking the assistance of all the Saints in Paradise.

"Cease to fear a poor frail mortal like yourself," said I, "who seriously implores your compassion."

My hermit, having fallen upon his knees, raised his eyes to heaven, saying, in a trembling voice—

"If you require my prayers, only speak, and I will, if possible, rescue you from the pains of purgatory!"

"Father," said I, "I am not dead, of course I have never been in purgatory. All I require, is a night's lodging in your hermitage, which will be doing me a great favour, and may be the means of preserving my life."

The

The old man slowly rose; and having felt me from head to foot, and convinced himself that I was still among the number of the living, he conducted me towards his habitation. There, by the light of his lamp, he again examined me, and seemed to have ceased to fear "I was a goblin damned."

"But pray by what chance have you found your way into this island," said he, "which is solely appropriated to the reception of state prisoners, who are condemned by the Counsel of Ten to be confined in the fortress of Spirzberg?"

I related,

I related, as briefly as possible, every thing that had befallen me, and beguiled him of some tears; and when I ceased speaking, he readily promised to lodge both Adele and myself.

"So go in search of her," he proceeded. "I dare say you are both very hungry, which, as I have no dainties to place before you, is rather a fortunate circumstance; and as for beds, fatigue will, I hope, enable you to sleep in those I have to offer you."

I assured him I should ever gratefully remember his kind behaviour,

running towards the plain where I had left Adele; but judge of my sorrow when I sought her in vain—in vain called Adele, my dearest Adele! My blood ran cold, and, for the first time in my life, I gave way to despair! Throwing myself upon the ground, I cursed my existence, and invoked death as a blessing. A cold sweat bedewed my forehead, and I hoped that my prayers had been heard, when a cannon was fired from the ramparts of the fortress.

The sound roused me from my delirium. I listened; the drums beat in the inner court. I heard the cries of several sentinels, and the noise

noise of the chains belonging to the drawbridge. Slowly and silently I advanced towards it, and perceived it was crowded by soldiers bearing torches. Another body of guards, who seemed to have just landed, soon came up.

"They are bringing a prisoner," thought I; and I could hardly believe my eyes, when, in the middle of them, I saw Loganez—the lover of Mademoiselle de Serbellona! —the man who had mistaken me for her, and whom I had seen at her father's.

I only wonder my surprise did not betray me. He was pale, and

seemed

seemed dejected; yet his very countenance bespoke his innocence. How much I pitied him!—but, alas! I could do no more. He entered the fortress, followed by my best wishes. The drawbridge was raised, the drums beat again, a second cannon was fired, and a profound silence ensued.

Never had I felt so afflicted. What with having lost Adele, and seen Loganez probably confined for life, my heart was almost broken. Towards the hermitage, however, I directed my steps, but no hermit was to be seen; his robe only remained as a memento that he had been there!

"What

"What does this mean?" thought I. "Has my anchoret been playing me a trick? Oh the hypocrite!"

In vain did I seek the old man—in vain did I endeavour to guess where he was gone. What was I to do? Should I throw off my woman's dress, and assume the hermit's robe?

"In that disguise I shall be able to traverse the island," thought I, "in search of my dear Adele."

This idea induced me instantly to change my dress, and away I walked; but I had not advanced ten

ten yards, ere I perceived the hermit and Adele coming towards me. I instantly stopped. They did the same. Fearful, therefore, that I should again alarm the hermit, I advanced towards them, addressing Adele, who as instantly recollected my voice as the hermit did his gown; and by a sudden and secret impulse, we all three rushed into the arms of each other. We then proceeded, all speaking at once, towards the hermitage, when, having entered, we took our seats at a small table, upon which Father Anastasio placed some excellent bread and some very good wine, which made us forget our late fatigue; and a general explanation now took place.

Adele,

Adele, having been alarmed by the appearance of the soldiers and their torches, who had landed with the prisoner, fearful that they might be satellites in the pay of Manfredino, flew with terror, to avoid falling into their hands during my absence, and had sought a refuge in a grotto adjoining the wood, leading to the hermitage. Meanwhile Father Anastasio had been summoned by the Governor of the fortress to attend him immediately; in consequence, he had thrown off the gown I had made free with, and had adorned himself in a robe more suited to his sacred functions.

In my turn I informed them why I had assumed my present disguise, having meant to traverse the island in search of Adele.

Father Anastasio gave me credit for my intention, declaring I made a very handsome Friar.

"You wish to render me vain, Father; but may I enquire why you were so hastily summoned by the Governor?"

The hermit sighed, saying—

"You must not ask me any such questions."

"My

"My dear Father, surely if you knew how very anxious I am,"—(I was thinking of Loganez.)—"you would not refuse to satisfy my curiosity."

"Well, my son—well, I will oblige you, since I shall find relief in so doing; and I am convinced you will neither of you betray the secret with which I mean to entrust you."

"I will be sworn to silence if you require it, Father."

"No, no; your countenance convinces me that I may confide in you; and you must know that a prisoner arrived this very evening at the fortress."

"I saw him," I replied.

"Well, an order is also arrived. ——You understand me?"

"To put him to death quietly, I suppose?"

"You have guessed right; and to-morrow perhaps——"

"To-morrow! Oh the wretches!"

"What is the matter, my son?"

"Nothing, nothing, Father; but have you learned what crime he has committed?"

"No, the Governor did not chuse to enter into any explanation; I merely understood that the young man had dishonoured one of the first families in Venice."

"And you were sent for then, Father——"

 "To

"To dispose him to appear before his Maker; in short, to prepare him to suffer death with fortitude."

"You are then in Priest's orders?"

"I am Chaplain to the fort."

"Have you spoken to the young prisoner?"

"I have."

"What did he say to you during your visit?"

"That his conscience was free from reproach, and that he was as innocent as I could be. He then thanked me for my zeal and my kind intentions, but did not chuse to listen to my exhortations; I therefore soon left him to his own reflections, and having repeated to the

the Governor every thing that had passed between us, I set out upon my return home, by which means I stumbled upon this amiable young lady."

His recital rendered me very thoughtful and very uneasy. Adele remarked my absence of mind, and enquired what ailed me, when, starting up, I seized the Hermit's hand, exclaiming—

"Have you sufficient courage, Father, to endeavour to save the life of an innocent man?"

"My duty, my profession, religion, and humanity all require me to do so, if possible; besides, it

 would

would afford me the greatest satisfaction."

"Then you may enjoy that pleasure, Father, since I can afford you the means of signalizing your humanity, and of doing an action which must be acceptable in the eyes of that Being whom you adore, and whom you have sworn to serve at every risk."

"My dear son, you will render me an enthusiast in the service of innocence. Proceed; pray explain your meaning."

"The prisoner who is doomed to perish—the young man who refused to listen to you, is as innocent as he declared himself to be. This I would venture to affirm upon oath, if

required.

required. Loganez is not a criminal; he is, on the contrary, a victim to the hatred of a great family, whom he has never offended. Listen to me with attention, Father; for I call upon you to judge how much he is to be pitied, and how little he has to reproach himself with."

I now summoned all my stock of eloquence to my assistance, while repeating to the Hermit how I had gained admittance into the Carmelite Nunnery at Naples, how I had discovered the tender affection the Signora Serbellona felt for the youthful Loganez; entering into various details respecting her death, and my subsequent flight from the Nunnery,

which had led Loganez into a similar error to that the Nuns had so readily fallen into; proceeding to relate why I had left Naples, by what chance I had been landed at Venice, why I had been so strangely removed from thence, and conveyed to Count Manfredino's Castle:—in short, I pleaded the cause of Loganez so successfully, that the worthy Hermit swore to do all that laid in his power, to save the life of that unfortunate young man.

CHAP.

CHAP. III.

Risus, lachryma, spes.

NOT wishing to suffer the Hermit's zeal and enthusiasm to cool, I prevailed upon him to write the following letter, before we retired, to his Excellency the Count de Zangelli, Governor of the Fortress of Spirtzberg:—

"My Lord,

"Feeling very uneasy in consequence of my want of success in my earnest endeavours to prevail upon the prisoner, to whom you yesterday introduced me, to listen to my exhortations, and which I am very much inclined to attribute to my want of judgment, or of eloquence—in short, to the natural weakness of mind men of my age are so apt to labour under, I am therefore the less inclined to give up all hopes of awakening him to a proper sense of his situation, which has induced me to send for Father Angelini, whose exhortations, I flatter myself, will be attended

attended with the desired effect:—whether or not, I have sworn him to secrecy, and shall entrust him with this letter. He is reckoned one of the most learned Monks belonging to our Order; and his persuasive eloquence cannot fail of making some impression upon the prisoner, with whom you may safely leave him *tête-à-tête*. Indeed I thought it absolutely necessary to make this last effort in his favour, both for your sake and mine; and I have the honour to subscribe myself,

"Your most obedient servant,

"FATHER ANASTASIO,

"*Hermit and Monk of the Order of St. Francis, and Chaplain to the Fortress of Spirtzberg.*"

 Having

Having thus provided myself with proper credentials to facilitate the plan I had in view, we thought of taking some repose. The hermitage contained three cells, or rooms. One was allotted to Adele, a second to me, and in the other the Father slept. I ought to have observed, that we had both joined him in his evening devotions, and had prayed the Almighty to prosper our endeavours to save Loganez.

We rose at an early hour, and having once more offered up our thanksgivings to Him from whom all good proceeds, we breakfasted upon some excellent new milk, which was brought the Hermit from

a neighbouring farm. I then, once more assuming my over-night's disguise, prepared to set out for the fort. The Father and Adele accompanied me to some distance, and then left me, putting up the most fervent prayers for my success.

Having reached the first sentinel, I asked to speak with his Excellency. Two soldiers led me, without any farther ceremony, into his apartment, and I respectfully presented him with the letter which the Hermit had written. He read it very attentively; but as he more than once changed countenance, I feared the fatal order had already been put in execution.

Looking me full in the face, M. de Zangelli asked me several questions, to which I returned very proper answers. At last, he seemed perfectly satisfied; for he immediately wrote an order for my admittance to the prisoner.

"I am then yet in time?" I exclaimed in a joyful accent.

"Yes, Father Angelini," replied the Governor, who had not understood the real meaning of my exclamation; "and I desire you will not be sparing of your exhortations; for probably this very evening——"

This

This very evening!—I shuddered at the bare idea; but a jailer having appeared in obedience to the summons of the Governor, he desired me to follow him. The noise he made with the large bunch of heavy keys he held, increased my terror; and while descending the stairs leading to the dungeon in which Loganez was confined, I could not help reflecting how easily great people can strain the laws, to gratify their own private pique or revenge, and I was surprised at their criminal attempts being so seldom noticed. Nor could I refrain from calling down vengeance upon those in power, who are ever actuated by caprice,

caprice, or the impulse of the moment; and it is very possible that I should have betrayed the interest I felt in the prisoner's fate, if the hoarse voice of the jailer had not restored me to my recollection.

"What, are you beginning to preach already?" said Barbarino, the very appropriate name of my companion. "Do stop till you reach the prisoner's dungeon; for he certainly cannot benefit by your holy zeal as yet."

I made no reply; indeed silence in many cases is a proof of the most sovereign disdain. At last the door of Loganez's dungeon creaked upon the

the hinges, and I was admitted. The jailer followed me in, and would have remained; but I desired him to leave us together: and as the order the Governor had given him, awed him into obedience, he nodded his head, telling me he should return for me in an hour, locking and bolting me in with the lover of the unfortunate Penelope.

He appeared very calm and collected. Drawing near, I requested he would permit me to inform him of the motives which had induced me to intrude upon him.

Without raising his eyes, Loganez replied—

"I have

"I have already declared my intentions to Father Anastasio."

"I know you have."

"Then spare yourself any farther trouble, holy Father, since I am ready to meet death this moment if required; for no deadly sin bears heavy upon my conscience. I am the victim of a powerful enemy, and——"

"Signor Loganez!" said I.

"What do I hear? From whom did you learn my name?"

"Signor Loganez, deign to look at me, and you will recognise in me the person who has been the involuntary cause of your present detention."

I threw

I threw off my hermit's cowl while speaking. Loganez was thunder-struck.

"Surely your features are familiar to my recollection."

"Certainly they must be, for they have led you into the error that has proved so fatal to you. Listen to me, and I will enter into some necessary, though sorrowful details; after which, we will concert together how best to preserve you from the fate that awaits you: we have no time to lose."

I therefore hastily related every thing that had befallen me from the moment I had sought a refuge in the

the Carmelite Nunnery at Naples, till my arrival at the hermitage in this island. His astonishment may be better imagined than described, though he had heard of Signora Serbellona's death; but he was so certain of having rescued her from the fire, that he had placed no faith in the report, though he had heard from the family under whose care he thought he had placed her, that she had left their house in men's clothes, and had, they had discovered, proceeded to Venice. Mr. de Serbellona had, on the same day, received the account of his daughter's death from the Lady Abbess, and was grieving very sincerely for her loss, when he was informed

informed that the Signora was then in Venice, disguised in men's clothes; he therefore fancied that Loganez and the Abbess had entered into a league to deceive him, and this he taxed him with when they met the next time.

"I was at a loss what answer to make," said Loganez; "for the letter I had that very morning received from Naples, had induced me to fear that the Signora Serbellona had been guilty of a very great imprudence, which might prove fatal to us both. For that time, however, the angry Senator dismissed me; but I was but too soon convinced, as I thought, that his daughter

daughter had been actually seen in Venice; and I had the farther grief to learn that she had been followed, stopped, and carried I could not even guess where."

"To the Castle of Manfredino, I have already told you," said I.

"Anxious, however," rejoined Loganez, "to excuse her even at my own expence, I fell at Mr. de Serbellona's feet, conjuring him to make me alone feel all the weight of his anger. But my entreaties, far from inducing him to forgive his daughter, merely increased his rage; for he immediately sent me to prison, where I remained three days. I was then doubtless removed, at his request, by order of the Supreme Council,

Council, to this fortress, where I am destined to terminate my existence."

"He cannot sufficiently be blamed for his conduct towards you; but certainly you do not mean to suffer him to deprive you of life, if we can manage to preserve you from his malice?"

"Believe me, life is of very little value in my eyes, since I am deprived of her whom I shall never cease to adore. While I flattered myself she still lived, I clung to my existence for her sake; but as you have convinced me that she died for my sake, I am very ready to resign what I shall be tempted henceforth to consider as a burden."

"Your

"Your grief has unsettled your brain, Signor. You ought more than ever to wish to live, that you may assert the innocence of her that was so dear to you, and that you may confound your enemies."

In short, I said so much, and spoke so much to his feelings, that he agreed at last to be guided entirely by my advice; and as the preliminary step towards a scheme which I had in view, we agreed that he should feign to be in the greatest agony when the jailer returned, and that I should give the Governor to understand he had swallowed poison.

Time

Time was not allowed me to enter into many details respecting the project I had formed to effect his deliverance; for the hour allotted me, had soon slipped away, and Barbarino entered the dungeon.

I once more assumed the tone and manners of Father Angelini; while Loganez prepared to act the part I had allotted him. The jailer was absolutely the dupe of our stratagem.

"I much fear," said I, "that this poor young man has given way to despair, and swallowed poison."

"Well, and there will be no great harm done, supposing you are right in

in your conjectures," coolly replied Barbarino.

"How so? What do you mean?"

"Why, that he has been saving the Governor trouble," said he, with a gesture that made me tremble.

"Say no more," said I, "as I am in haste to see Monsieur Zangelli."

So leaving Loganez *in convulsions*, I followed him out. He hurried up the stairs, while I ascended more slowly, when, as chance would have it, I met the surgeon belonging to the fort.

"How fortunate!" thought I, for I had foreseen that, without

the

the assistance of this man, I should have some difficulty in bringing my plan to bear.

I therefore stopped him, and without seeming to wish to seduce him from his duty, I put him adroitly into our interest—that is to say, I induced him to serve us very effectually, without being at all aware of what he was doing. The pocket-book that Loredo had given me, contained near twenty thousand livres in bank-notes. Taking it out of my pocket, I presented it to him, saying—

"Sir, the prisoner who was brought hither yesterday, the Signor

Loganez, is, in my opinion, dying; indeed I strongly suspect he has swallowed poison. Be that as it may, he desired me to give you this pocket-book, in which there are twenty thousand livres in bank-notes; but you are not to appropriate the money to your own use till he is actually dead, and buried; for, should he recover, he will of course require you should return it to him.—But I would now have you attend me to the Governor's, who will certainly, in consequence of my representations, give you an order of admittance to the dying man."

It

It may be presumed that the disciple of Æsculapius was not inclined to exert his efforts to recover the prisoner; for the hope of possessing what he thought an immense sum, would have induced him to have buried Loganez alive, rather than have been obliged to have restored him his pocket book.

The Governor seemed rather pleased, than not, when I informed him that I feared the prisoner had hastened the termination of his existence; he therefore made no objection to the surgeon's paying him a visit, desiring to know what he thought of his illness, when he left him.

Now do not, reader, be induced to suppose that Signor Zangelli was either a bad or a cruel man; for he had merely accepted the command of the fortress, in hopes of being able to soften the rigorous destiny of the prisoners confined within its walls; and as he had received a positive order to put Loganez privately and quietly to death, which was very repugnant to his feelings, he rejoiced at having been, as he hoped, spared so disagreeable a task.

Every thing seemed to portend the success of my hazardous enterprise; and having taken leave of the Governor, I asked Barbarino, as we were crossing the inner court,

where

where those prisoners who died in the fort, were buried.

He made me no answer, and I was fearful I had given him room for suspicion, when a tall thin man, who bore a much greater resemblance to a spectre than a human being, advanced, saying, in a hollow voice—

"Do you wish to have a spice of my office, Father? If so, only say the word; for I am the grave-digger."

I had guessed as much from his appearance; therefore gave him to understand, by several significant

gestures, that I wished to speak to him in private. He took the hint; and, telling the jailer that he had just recollected having left some things about in the chapel, he hastened thither, promising to return in a few minutes, to finish the game at picquet they had not long before begun.

Under pretence of offering up a prayer for Signor Loganez, I followed him into the chapel, eagerly enquiring whether he was inclined to render me a great service. The word *service* made him retreat at least three steps.

"I am

"I am not so absurd as to suppose you will serve me to your own detriment," said I; "for I am well aware of your responsibility, and of the severe laws to which every one within the fort is subjected: therefore God forbid I should ask you to expose your life—I merely wish you to co-operate with me in doing a good action."

"A good action!" said the wretch, making the most horrid grimace.

Perceiving that he was not very open to persuasion, I had recourse to another method to bring him into my plans; I therefore chinked a few pieces of gold in his ears. It had the desired effect; he gave a

 ghastly

ghastly grin, and gaily rubbing his hands, said—

"Oh! now I begin to understand you, Father; so pray explain yourself. I am a very kind-hearted soul, such as you see me. Barbarino can tell you that I am as gentle as a lamb; indeed I have a very feeling heart: and when I am asked to do a good action, I am unable to give a refusal, if I am but properly taken. So tell me what you require of me, Father."

Not to lose time, I took several ducats out of my pocket, saying—

"It

" It merely rests with yourself, whether these shall fall into your hands."

" How so?"

" Why, all I require in return, is to have the body of the prisoner, who now lies at the point of death, having taken poison."

" What, the young man who was brought here yesterday?"

" The same; he has taken poison, and is most likely dead ere this."

" And what do you want with his corpse?"

" My intention is to open it, that I may discover in what manner the poison has acted upon the vital parts."

 "Oh!

" Oh! I understand—you are the surgeon of the Order."

I gave into this error, dwelling upon my rage for dissection, &c.

" Well, well, Father, since what you do, is for all our good, why I will deliver the dead body to you. Only do you be to-morrow night at ten o'clock at the gate leading into the burying-ground."

" Where is that situated?"

" At the back of Father Anastasio's hermitage. It is surrounded by palisades."

" Good! I shall have plenty of time to reconnoitre the place."

"You can't miss finding it; and I will be there precisely at ten. This shall be the signal," clapping his hands three times. "I shall have a dark lanthorn; so you cannot mistake me for any body else."

"Very well, and we will then conclude our bargain."

"Agreed."

"I may depend upon your word?"

"Sepulcrone never yet deceived any body: so may I be haunted by the ghosts of all the prisoners that I have buried, if I am not true to my promise!—and some few have gone through my hands since I have had the honour of being grave-digger in chief within the fort of Spirtzberg,

and sexton to the chapel of his Excellency the Governor Zangelli."

"Then, as a proof of my intention to make you a very handsome present, accept this ducat in advance."

"Thank you; I will drink the health of Father——"

"Angelini."

"Angelini!—Ah Father! you will bring me luck."

"You must be as secret as the grave."

"Of course; and I depend upon your discretion, for I should lose my place, were it to be known."

"I know you would, and I should be severely reprimanded; for there are certain prejudices, friend Sepulcrone, that neither

humanity

humanity nor philosophy will ever be able to eradicate."

"Adieu, then, till to-morrow! We have been talking for some time. Barbarino is cunning, and the least word might awaken his suspicions, notwithstanding we are stanch friends; and he would never forgive me——"

"Were he to suspect that you had earned any money——"

"Without giving him his share. 'Tis but too true; and in this world one ought to endeavour to be upon good terms with every body, for one cannot have too many friends."

"I am perfectly of your way of thinking; so adieu for the present!" shaking his di.ty meagre paw; and

scarcely had I let it go, when Barbarino joined us.

"Why, what a time you have spent in the chapel, Sepulcrone! Have you been confessing to Father Angelini? At all events, I am certain you have not told him of half the sins you have been guilty of!"

"I am obliged to you for your good opinion of me, Barbarino."

"Oh, there is no need for thanks. But only think of leaving me in the lurch, when I had the game all in my own hands, for I hold every club," displaying his cards. "Why, I should have *capoted* you as sure as fate."

"Well,

"Well, well, I will give you your revenge.'

"Oh, you will not have time, for the Governor wants you. Do you know that the newly arrived prisoner is dead?—At least, so says the surgeon. So go and say a mass for the repose of his soul, Father."

"Father Anastasio of course officiates upon these occasions, my friend, and I do not wish to interfere with his duties; though I will readily watch by the body when it is exposed in the chapel."

"I had rather you had the job than me," said Barbarino; "though, to be sure, it is a part of your trade."

CHAP. IV.

Risum teneatis, amici.

HAVING left the fortress, I hastened to the hermitage, to tell Father Anastasio how well I had succeeded hitherto.

Adele, who had been very uneasy, was rejoiced to see me return in safety, and warmly congratulated me

me upon having, in some respects, brought my scheme to bear.

Anastasio next led me to the burying-ground, where I saw the gate Sepulcrone had mentioned; and we returned to the hermitage, where we packed up some provisions, to preserve the life of the *dead man*, who we presumed would be hungry before he would be delivered to me by Sepulcrone.

In the afternoon we received a summons to attend the Governor, who made us sign a paper which the surgeon had drawn up, containing an account of Loganez's death, who had certainly, as I expected, run the

the risk of burying his prisoner alive, in preference to returning the pocket-book. This done, the Governor enquired which of us chose to spend the night in watching by the coffin, which was going to be exposed in the choïr of the chapel. Without allowing Father Anastasio time to speak, I said that I was much the most capable of undergoing the necessary fatigue attendant upon such a duty, and much the most accustomed to spend the nights without sleeping.

The Governor seemed flattered by the zeal I displayed, assuring me that I should be amply rewarded by the family of the defunct, who were

were people of some consequence, and to whom he should mention me in the most favourable terms, thanking Father Anastasio for having introduced him to so worthy a man as he conceived me to be; who, though rather confused, made a very polite answer, observing that as the evening was advancing, since I was resolved to watch by the corpse, he would return to the hermitage, where his presence was, it so happened, particularly required, which had induced him the more readily to accept of my proffered services. I pressed his hand, offering up a very sincere prayer in his behalf, adding, in a whisper—

"Watch

"Watch over Adele!" and away he went.

The Governor invited me to supper; and, had my mind been rather more at ease, I should have greatly enjoyed his conversation. But at last the clock struck ten, and I reminded him that it was time for me to go where my duty called me.

The worthy man, who would with pleasure have kissed the Pope's slipper twenty times a day, would say an *avé* for the defunct before we separated. Not chusing to appear less devout, I began the *Confiteor*, in which he joined very fervently; and

and certainly a bystander might have thought we were endeavouring to take heaven by storm, so loudly did we exclaim *mea culpa*, and so repeatedly did we knock our breasts. But at last I rose, observing that time wore, when one of the soldiers was summoned to conduct me into the chapel; and as we drew near, my heart beat unusually quick, for I was still very anxious, as I was fearful Loganez might not have acted his part so well as I had done mine, since I had not been able to give him many hints during our short interview: and I had also my fears whether the surgeon might not have thought proper to put him out of his misery, as a sure means of

securing

securing the pocket-book. I therefore hastened forward, which induced the soldier to remark my speed.

"Good night!" said I. "I know my way now."

"So much the better, so much the better," turning upon his heel, while I shut the chapel-door in his face; and I must acknowledge that I felt unusually alarmed.

A profound silence reigned within the fort, and the chapel was merely dimly lit by a lamp, which was burning by the side of the great altar, which just enabled me to distinguish the coffin, that was covered

covered with a large black velvet pall.

The grates through which the prisoners heard mass rendered the scene still more dismal, and had such an effect upon my nerves, that I with difficulty reached the altar, where I remained motionless and dumb, in vain endeavouring to pronounce the name of Loganez, for my tongue absolutely refused to second my wishes.

"Is it you?" said a voice that I did not immediately recollect.

"Yes," said I, without reflecting to whom I was replying.

"Are

"Are we alone?" asked the same voice.

"Absolutely so," said I, convinced now that it was Loganez who had spoken.

"God be praised! for I am almost suffocated;" and while speaking, he threw off the coffin-lid, and appeared before me, wrapped in his winding-sheet.

Notwithstanding my late fears, so many ridiculous ideas came across me, and I was so rejoiced at seeing him alive and hearty, that I burst into a fit of laughter, and should have given still farther way to my mirth, if Loganez had not reminded me of my imprudence, observing that

that we were not at present in a place where we could properly enjoy ourselves.

"You are much in the right," said I; "but pray how have you found yourself?"

"Wery well for a corpse, but very badly situated for a living creature; for I began to fear I should be suffocated before you arrived. Fortunately, the coffin has already been made use of, for it is cracked in several places, which served me as air-holes, else I must infallibly have given up the ghost."

"But are you not hungry?"

"Indeed I am, for I have not broke my fast since my arrival here.

I hope you have reflected upon that circumstance?"

"I have," presenting him with the provisions I had brought from the hermitage, and a bottle of old wine.

He soon satisfied the cravings of nature, and was proceeding to empty his bottle, when I desired him to be cautious, as he ought to keep himself perfectly sober, for fear he should betray himself before he was without the walls of the fort.

"Oh mercy! Well, I must call in patience to my assistance, though you don't know what a difficult task I have already found it, to feign myself

myself dead; and it should seem, from what I of course overheard, that every soul in the fort rejoiced at my death, from the Governor down to the jailer. I was therefore all impatience to see you, to learn why I was so much in their way."

I entered into various explanations, which perfectly accounted for what had so much surprised him, observing that the Governor was rejoiced at being spared the trouble of hastening his exit, and that the surgeon would much rather have buried him alive, than have returned the money. But what amused him more than any thing, was the treaty

I had entered into with the grave-digger.

"You perceive, however, that you are not yet come to the end of the farce," I continued; "for you must spend the day in your coffin, and remain as quiet as a mouse, till it pleases Sepulcrone to deliver you over to me, to cut you up for the benefit of humanity."

Thus did we spend the night, having a great deal to say to each other, and many arrangements to make, resolving to make Father Anastasio the companion of our flight, as Loganez had it amply in his power to recompense him for

having

having so kindly assisted in forwarding my schemes.

"The moment we have quitted the Venetian territories," said he, "I will institute a lawsuit against the Count de Serbellona, who will doubtless be obliged to acknowledge my innocence; and I shall be reinstated in all my rights, which will enable me to give you, my dear Bolding, and the worthy Father, some solid proofs of my sincere gratitude for your friendly endeavours to save me, at the risk of sharing my fate."

At daybreak he once more extended himself in his coffin, and I

covered him down, after making several additional holes to facilitate his breathing; and having replaced the pall, I took my station upon the steps leading to the altar, where I had not remained many minutes, when the door leading into the chapel, was thrown open, and Barbarino, followed by Sepulcrone, made his appearance.

Sepulcrone appeared confused, and Barbarino seemed rather sorrowful. Contrary to his usual custom, he addressed me before I had spoken.

"Well, Father, how have you passed the night?"

"As

"As well as I expected or desired."

"Father Anastasio has been sent for."

"I presume he is coming to take my place?"

"I cannot tell; it was the Governor that sent for him, for he has received some wonderful news."

"Indeed!"

"Yes; you will learn what I mean, from his Excellency."

"Am I then interested in this news?"

"I suppose so: at all events, the Governor expects you."

"You make me tremble."

"I have done so for some time," said Barbarino.

 "And

"And I am terrified to death," said Sepulcrone; "upon my word, my heart is in my shoes," giving a sigh, that bore some resemblance to the braying of an ass.

"Go, go, Father Angelini; I believe it was the devil who sent you amongst us."

"Will you hold your fool's tongue?" said Barbarino. "Pray how was he to blame?"

"No, true; but you do not understand my meaning: however, I will tell you every thing, my dear friend; I have been very much to blame, but I hope you will forgive me."

"Are you mad?"

"No,

"No, I am, on the contrary, coming to my senses, rather too late, I agree; but one never gains any thing by doing wrong."

"Do explain what you mean."

"Stop till Father Angelini is gone."

"Well, he is going."

"Is he out of sight?"

"Yes."

I had shut the chapel-door after me, meaning to listen for a few minutes; but it was too thick: yet I was very anxious to hear what Sepulcrone meant to reveal to his friend, though I presumed he was merely going to repeat what had

passed between him and me; and I hoped Barbarino would be too anxious to share the money, to prevent him from keeping his word. Away, therefore, I hastened to the Governor's apartments, who I learned had that moment set out for Venice, having left the following letter for me.

"FATHER ANGELINI,

"An extraordinary event which has recently occurred, obliges me to appear before the Senate of Venice without delay; but I hope to find you still in the island when I return:

I return: till when, I remain sincerely your's,

"ZANGELLI."

What could all this mean? I wondered. As it was, however, in vain to puzzle my brains, I was preparing to leave the fortress, when I was joined by Father Anastasius, who was come to take my place in the chapel.

To him I briefly related every thing that had occurred since our separation, when he desired me to hasten to Adele, who was very uneasy for my safety, adding—

"I will watch in the chapel till Sepulcrone comes, as usual, to bury the dead man. You will not fail to give him the meeting, as agreed upon, and to have every thing in readiness for your immediate departure from the island. At the farther extremity of the fortress you will find a fisherman's boat, which you must seize, and you must follow the course of the river till you reach Trevisio; there you may land in safety, as you will no longer be in the Venetian territory."

"Well, but, my good Father, you must be of the party."

"Do not render the task you have allotted yourself, more difficult than it will already prove. I am

very

very old, and shall only be a burden to you; so pray leave me behind, for I can run no risk of being suspected of having connived at Signor Loganez's resurrection."

I however so plainly convinced him that he might very probably succeed him in his dungeon, that at last he agreed to join our party, and to attach himself to our fortunes.

I then ran to the hermitage, where I found Adele writing; but she flew into my arms the moment I entered, and I would have made her my wife that very evening, if I had not reflected that I ought first to see Doctor Papirio, and to be more fully convinced of Sylvia's

death; besides, I was not yet acquainted with Adele's story, nor with her reasons for having left France. Indeed, we had neither of us as yet been at leisure to talk over our own concerns.

I made the remark to the lovely girl, who, putting into my hand what she had been writing, desired me to read what she entrusted me with, very attentively. It was a short history of her life; and she was anxious to convince me that she was not absolutely undeserving of my regard.

I fell at her feet, assuring her that, but for my uncertainty,

respecting

respecting the death of my former wife, I should already have offered her my hand; and had Loganez been at liberty, I felt I could with pleasure have spent the rest of my days with my beloved Adele in the Father's solitary hermitage. Such is the enthusiasm of real love; but fate had otherwise decreed.

CHAP.

CHAP. IV.

" Nos fugimus patriam,
" Et relinquimus arva."

ADELE, having given me what she had written during my absence, I began to read as follows :—

History of Mademoiselle de Senneval.

" De Senneval is my family name. As I expect you will read these papers

papers at your leisure, I have been induced to insert in them every thing that I can recollect respecting myself."

"Dearest Adele, too amiable friend, I will now in my turn inform you who I am, and why I quitted England, my native country."

Adele was very ready to listen to me; and when I had concluded my story, she threw herself into my arms, tenderly embracing me, as if to console me for all my misfortunes.

It

It was not yet dusk, and I was impatiently waiting for the expected rendezvous. Father Anastasio was still at the fort, and nothing yet had transpired. I could not, however, entirely get rid of my apprehension; but not wishing to give way to reflection, I seated myself at the foot of a tree, and taking from my bosom the manuscript Adele had given me, I began to read as follows:—

"In that rich province commonly called the garden of France, about six leagues from Tours, upon the borders of the Loire, may be found

found the little village of Courchamp. There I was born. M. de Senneval, my father, was lord of the manor. He was good, charitable, and did justice, to the best of his abilities, to both rich and poor; but having, like all Frenchmen of birth, been in the army, he was proud, passionate, and rather jealous of a young and handsome wife, whom he had married when he resigned his commission: in a word, he joined to the most excellent qualities, failings that might be termed insupportable, and which certainly were calculated to imbitter the rest of his life.

"A boy

" A boy was the first fruit of this marriage. and fifteen years elapsed before my mother brought me, the heroine of these memoirs, into the world; and my birth occasioned the untimely death of two of my nearest and dearest relations: for at this epoch a sort of fatality attached itself to our family, and, as it often happens, the greatest events proceeded from the most trifling cause.

" My father had a tenant, whose name was Richery, and whose probity was not absolutely unimpeached. This Richery was by no means what might have been styled a village rustic, since he was a kind

of

of fop, who was continually aping the manners of his superiors. He was also a great talker, though few men were more devoid of common sense. In addition to this, he was wicked, proud, and revengeful. You will therefore easily judge that he was not inclined to stick at trifles. All those who knew him, have assured me that he never displayed any judgment, except when he was planning mischief, or tormenting those who worked under him. He was very generally detested; but he was also feared, because he was the richest farmer in the place, though his vices rendered him odious to every one.

"He

" He one day came to the Castle, to give in some accounts which ought to have been brought forward six months before; and having answered rather impertinently several questions my father asked him, he even took the liberty to criticize the manner in which the apartments were furnished and distributed, advising my father to knock down what he styled a ruinous old Castle, that he might build a more modern house in the same situation.

" For a time M. de Senneval very wisely listened to his insolent remarks in silence, till the impudent farmer continuing, thus unasked, to give

give his advice, no longer master of his temper, my father desired him to hold his tongue, and not to meddle with what did not concern him; advising him, if he wished they should remain friends, to pay more attention to the management of his farm, which, he feared, was going to rack and ruin, to judge from the recent accounts he had submitted to his inspection.

Richery, piqued by these remonstrances, told my father he might look for another tenant, at the same time ridiculing his advice. Furious to find himself thus braved, my father seized him by the collar, and flung him out of the room; and not contented

contented with having thus vented his spleen, he gave him a box on the ear.

The humbled Richery had sufficient presence of mind not to return the blow; but mentally swore to be revenged for the humiliation he had undergone. Several days having elapsed without his having made any complaint, or any advances towards a reconciliation, my father felt sorry he had not been able to govern his temper. Of course he did not chuse to be the first to extend the olive-branch; but after a time, thinking he had already greatly lowered himself, he wrote the following note.

" M. de Senneval would be glad to hear how Richery does."

" The gratified farmer returned no answer; and at the expiration of some months, my father had forgotten this apparent trifling adventure; but Richery still brooded over the blow he had received, and soon gave my father convincing proofs that it is more dangerous to irritate a fool than a man of sense, since no one can be more malicious than an ignorant man, who fancies himself wronged.

 " Richery

"Richery had for some time made love to my mother's head woman, Mademoiselle Faustine; and since his quarrel with my father, he had made her promise to second his schemes of revenge. A purse, containing five-and twenty guineas, and the promise of his hand, rendered her his fast friend; and this cruel girl, who was well acquainted with the jealousy of my father's disposition, soon afforded her worthy lover an occasion to signalize his resentment.

"My mother was still handsome; for she was only three-and thirty, and might, had she moved in a larger circle, have still boasted of her

her admirers; but she was fond of a retired life, and merely wished to render every one happy, by whom she was surrounded.

"A young officer, whose name I have forgot, frequently came to pay her his respects. My father had long considered him as his friend, and was never so happy as when in his company. They generally walked, visited, and hunted together; but, notwithstanding their avowed intimacy, there were people who placed the officer's frequent visits to my mother's account, and by degrees their scandalous reports reached my father's ears, who no longer pressed his friend to be so often of their

 parties,

parties. The officer, guessing in what this coolness originated, took the first opportunity to join his regiment, thus, as he hoped, effectually stifling my father's jealous suspicions.

"During this interval, the traitor Richery was by no means idle; it was he who, in concert with Faustine, had awakened my father's jealousy. The absence of the young officer was of course remarked by my mother, who expressed a wish to pass the ensuing winter at Tours. This indiscreet demand, considering my father's temper, unfortunately increased his suspicions, fancying himself betrayed and dishonoured.

He

"He communicated his fears to Faustine, who, eagerly seizing so favourable an opportunity, calumniated her mistress in the grossest manner; assuring him that the young officer had merely removed to a distance, to prevent his forming any suspicions which might prove prejudicial to their future interviews.

"The too credulous M. de Senneval placed the most implicit confidence in every thing this artful girl said; who strenuously advised him to keep his own secret, and to conceal his resentment till he had the most convincing proofs of the infidelity of his wife. He promised

to do as she desired, making her a handsome present in return for the zeal she expressed to serve him, which merely spurred her on to put his credulity to a still farther proof.

'Good Heavens!' said she one day to my father, 'how miserable I am!'

'What is the matter?' he anxiously enquired.

'Ah Sir! I was much in the wrong to make you the promise which you exacted of me.'

'Why so?'

'Why, who can tell what may be the consequence?'

'Faustine, do not deceive me, nor keep me in suspense.'

'There,

'There, I foresaw what would be the consequence of my imprudence!—You are already in a rage; so, if you will be advised by me, make no farther enquiries!'

"This was merely said to increase the curiosity of M. de Senneval, who, hastily exclaimed—

'You need not be under any apprehensions, Faustine; for were I certain that my wife had dishonoured me, I should be nevertheless able to govern my temper.'

'I hope so."

'Oh, you may trust to my promise; so pray don't keep me in

 ignorance

ignorance of any thing that may concern me.

'Why really, Sir, my great regard for you induces me to give you this letter,' taking one from her pocket.

'A letter, Faustine!'

'Alas! yes, Sir.'

'From my wife?'

'No, Sir, from the young officer, who calls himself your friend! Oh, what deceiving creatures men are! Who could have believed it, of this one in particular!'

'Faustine, give me the letter,' tearing it out of her hand while he spoke, when, having opened it, he read as follows:—

"I presume

'I presume I have long since been forgotten.' Your husband supposes I am with my regiment, little suspecting I inhabit a cottage in these environs, in hopes that you will permit me now and then to renew my vows of love at your feet.

'Your's for ever!

'P. S. Could not you persuade your husband to pay the old Baron a visit?—If we could but get him from home, I might easily visit you in disguise: you are aware of my prudence, therefore must know you will have nothing to fear. Place no

confidence in your maid. Give the beautiful little Adele a kiss for me. Once more adieu!'

" This letter rendered my father furious.

' This very evening,' said he to the perfidious Faustine, ' I will pretend to leave home, though I shall merely conceal myself in one of the closets adjoining your mistress's apartment, while you keep a strict watch over all her actions. Her lover will of course be informed of my absence, and will doubtless seize the opportunity to pay her a visit;

visit; therefore give me notice, Faustine, that I may surprise this guilty couple, when they least expect to see me.'

"Thus did he unintentionally forward the nefarious scheme of Richery and Faustine, who promised to do exactly as he desired, leaving him to put the finishing hand to her vile stratagem.

"M. de Senneval, impatient to be revenged, or at once to get rid of his troublesome doubts, informed my mother that he intended to spend a few days with the Baron of ——.

"My mother, who had never been in the habit of contradicting him, of course made no objections, not being aware that her condescension only served to increase his jealousy. Indeed with difficulty did he conceal his rage; but forcing a smile, he kissed her hand, and bade her adieu, retiring to a cottage at some distance from the Castle; but the moment it grew dark, he returned thither, secretly taking his station in Faustine's room, who, by way of increasing his rage, and rendering him blind to what might be the consequenee of his increasing thirst for revenge, shewed him a letter of a much earlier date, written in the same hand as the one she had

so

so recently suffered him to read. It was directed to Madame de Senneval; and, as my father supposed, written by the young officer who he suspected had dishonoured his bed. It ran thus:—

"Heaven has then at last listened to my prayers, since you have made me a father! Oh my well beloved! how proud I am of this title! and since we both desired a daughter, I think we have a double reason to rejoice! But what name shall we give this precious babe? What think you of Adele?—it is simple and pretty. Watch

carefully

carefully over this charming little creature. I dare not yet style her my daughter; but the time may yet come, when I may be enabled to boast of my affinity towards her: at present, prudence, and my regard for the lovely child and its lovely mother, condemn me to silence. I shall therefore content myself with repeating that I adore you, and that I shall do so to the end of my life; and depend upon my returning with interest all the kisses you may give my little Adele upon my account!"

"Judge what my father's reflections were, while reading this atrocious

atrocious forgery! To have a child imposed upon him that was the fruit of adultery, rendered him furious, and made him swear that he would destroy the guilty wretches who had taken such an advantage of his credulity; nay, I believe in his rage he even resolved to sacrifice me at the shrine of his injured honour.

"Little did my mother suspect the storm that was ready to burst over her head—little did she suspect that she should fall a victim to the plots of the base Richery, who, in a proper disguise, was introduced by Faustine into my mother's bedroom, where he remained concealed till she retired for the night. Feeling

uuusually

unusually sleepy, she soon dismissed her treacherous attendant, who seized the opportunity to go in search of my father, requesting him in a whisper, as she opened the door, to keep his temper, if possible, though she was afraid that the officer was concealed in the apartment, as she had been dismissed much sooner than usual.

" It may be supposed with what patience my father listened to her advice ; for, pushing open the door, he rushed forward. Richery, who had watched all his movements, instantly quitted his retreat, and ran down a back staircase, through a door which had been purposely left

left open to facilitate his flight; and by the faint light the moon, which was full upon the windows, gave, my father perceived a man in regimentals, whom he instantly pursued; but, aware of this circumstance, Richery had taken the precaution to fasten the door after him. Being thus disappointed with respect to the supposed lover, he flew towards the bed, and, dreadful to relate, plunged his sword into my mother's bosom!

During this time Faustine, who had also made her escape, and Richery left the Castle. A carriage was in waiting for them at the bottom of the park; and Richery, having

having turned every thing he possessed, into ready money, left the country, fully satisfied with having so amply revenged himself for the blow M. de Senneval had given him.

My father's screams had, however, awakened several servants. His valet was the first who ran to his assistance; and, perceiving my mother weltering in her blood, he let the light he held, fall, while he loudly summoned the other servants to his assistance. The room was soon full of people; but they came too late to prevent my unfortunate father, who neither wished to survive the crime he had committed,

nor

nor his dishonour, from falling upon his sword. Fortunately, the wound he gave himself, was not mortal; he was therefore conveyed into another apartment, and a surgeon, who had been hastily summoned, gave the terrified household great hopes that he would survive his rash attempt upon his own life, ordering him to be kept very quiet, and to have my mother buried with the greatest privacy.

"He was punctually obeyed, for the bells were even forbidden to toll upon the melancholy occasion; and my unfortunate mother was conveyed to the grave by the poorest tenants, who evinced their sincere grief

grief for the loss of their benefactress, by watering her coffin with their tears.

"My brother, who was at this time seventeen, was finishing his studies at Paris; but, of course, soon learned the dreadful catastrophe. He instantly left the capital, and in eighteen hours alighted at Courchamp. The sorrow and consternation of the inhabitants were but too convincing proofs of the loss he had sustained. He wished to have seen my father; but the surgeon would not allow him to enter the apartment till he could pronounce him out of danger.

"Ernest,

" Ernest, such was my brother's name, dared not enquire into the reason which had induced my father to raise his arm against his wife, though he thought, admitting that my mother had forgotten her duty towards him and her children, that he had far better have challenged her seducer, whose name he repeatedly enquired of M. de Senneval, declaring his resolution of calling him out, to answer for his base conduct towards a man, with whom he had so long lived in the habits of friendship.

" M. de Senneval, far from endeavouring to dissuade him from his proposed intention, was preparing to

to enter into the necessary details; when a letter was brought him; which a stranger had left with the porter. He opened it, but scarcely had he read three lines, ere he turned as pale as death; his hair seemed to stand erect, and his tongue to refuse its office, while the paper fell upon the floor. Ernest caught it up, and read, with a mixture of joy and horror, the following lines:—

'Do you remember the day when you gave me a blow, which I then swore never to forgive?—and I have been true to my word.

word. Your wife was innocent! It was I who was concealed in her apartment!—it was I whom you pursued, but whom you could not overtake! Your known jealousy enabled us to devise those snares into which you so easily fell! Faustine was my accomplice, and assisted me in ensuring you an old age of repentance; for whichever way you turn, your innocent and murdered wife will always rise up in judgment against you!

'I feel perfectly satisfied, since I have taken ample revenge for the proud and disdainful treatment I met with at your hands. Before you

you receive this letter, I shall have left France.

'RICHERY.'

"Ernest, scarcely waiting to recover my father from the swoon into which he had fallen, hastily summoned the servants;—he then seized his pistols, and immediately left the Castle, resolving never to return thither, till he had rid the earth of the monster who had deprived him of his mother. He spent several days in making enquiries respecting the road Richery had taken; and at last he learned that

he was gone towards Bordeaux. Thither he followed him; and proceeding immediately to the harbour, he enquired if there were any ships ready, or upon the point of sailing for America. They shewed him one, which they said was to sail by the next tide.

'I could wish to speak with the Captain,' said he.

'He is in that boat, with one of his passengers.'

"Ernest jumped into another; and having overtaken the one he was in pursuit of, he asked the Captain if he had not a passenger on board, of the name of Richery.

'This is he,' replied the Captain, turning to his companion, who was endeavouring to conceal his face.

'Almighty God! I thank thee!' cried my brother; 'for now I shall be able to revenge the death of my mother!' blowing Richery's brains out while he was speaking.

"He then endeavoured to put an end to his own existence with his second pistol; but the Captain caught it out of his hand, and threw it into the sea; and Ernest, being landed amongst a crowd of spectators, was immediately conducted to prison, and in the course of a month, was brought to his trial for murder. All he could say in his own

own defence, proved of no avail; and he was condemned to expiate his rashness upon a scaffold.

"The dreadful intelligence having reached my father, forgetting his weak state, and in direct opposition to the advice of his friends and medical attendants, he flew to Versailles, in hopes of obtaining his son's pardon; but vain were his efforts: he therefore set out for Bordeaux, resolving at least, if possible, once more to embrace his unfortunate son.

"Having gained admittance into the prison, and given way for some time to the sorrows that over-

 whelmed

whelmed him, he presented his son with a dagger, telling him that it was the only means that remained to preserve him from an ignominious death. Ernest eagerly received the fatal present, requesting his father to live for my sake, though he advised him to leave France for ever. The wretched M. de Senneval fainted in his arms; and a jailer having made his appearance, Ernest requested that he would remove his father, which was immediately done, since M. de Senneval, upon coming to himself, found himself in bed at the inn where he had alighted; and before the expiration of another hour, he learned that his son had terminated his existence, having left

left the following note in his dungeon.

'Since the laws have condemned me to suffer death for what I can never repent having done, I have taken this method to avoid the shame attendant upon a public execution.'

"Resolved to leave France, M. de Senneval immediately returned to Courchamp; and having hastily disposed of his estates, &c. he placed me in a Convent, and leaving a

sufficient sum in the hands of the Lady Abbess to provide amply for my wants during the ensuing twelve years, he set sail for the East Indies. I was only three years old when he bade a long adieu to his native country; I was therefore too young to be sensible of the misfortunes that had overwhelmed our family, which I learned at a future period from the Lady Abbess.

"The twelve years that my father had provided for, having elapsed, without my ever having heard what had become of him, I was preparing, at the Abbess's request, to take the veil, when that worthy woman came

to

to me with a letter in her hand, saying—

'Rejoice, my dear Adele, and give me a kiss for the good news I bring you.'

'News, Madam! from whom?'

'Can't you guess?'

'Oh, I have lost all hopes!'

'You are in the wrong, my child!—the Almighty always watches over those who put their trust in him! Your father still lives!'

'Is it possible, my dear Madam?'

'Very possible, I can assure you; and he is all impatience to see you.'

"For a moment joy deprived me of speech; but having recovered

my recollection, I flew into the Abbess's arms, requesting she would shew me the letter she had received from M. de Senneval.

'I am fearful that your joy——'

'Oh, don't keep me in suspense, my beloved Lady Abbess; if you did but know——'

"Fortunately a torrent of tears relieved my bursting heart, which induced the Abbess to give me the letter she had just received. It was dated from the Isle of France; and I innocently enquired whether it was any great distance from where we then resided.

'About

'About four thousand leagues,' she replied, laughing at my ignorance; 'and you seem to have studied geography to very little purpose.'

'Four thousand leagues!—then it will yet be a long while before I shall see my father.'

'Most probably; but read your letter.'

"I did as she desired.——The letter was directed to the Abbess.

'MADAM,

'My long silence must have surprised you, and doubtless I

must appear very culpable in the eyes of yourself and my daughter; but, notwithstanding there were reasons which I am not at liberty to explain to you, and which have prevented me from writing to you so often as I could have desired, I have never ceased to remember and to love my daughter, who I hope still lives, and is every thing a fond father can desire. I am now in possession of a very large fortune, which I merely hold in trust for my beloved Adele; let her therefore hasten to join me here, where I possess a large estate, and every thing requisite to render her future life happy.

'Mr.

'Mr. Edmond, of Nantes, will give her what money will be necessary for her voyage, and will pay you every extra expence you may have incurred upon her account. I therefore hope that you will place her in good hands, and provide her with a travelling companion, who may prevent her from feeling any *ennui* during her long voyage.

'Enclosed in this letter, I send her my picture.

'My father's picture, my dear Lady Abbess!' I exclaimed, interrupting my lecture.

 'Patience,

'Patience, patience—I meant to have occasioned you an agreeable surprise; but finish your letter, and you shall have the picture.'

'Adele will probably not recollect my features, which are greatly altered since our separation; but this picture will at least familiarize her with the countenance of a father, to whom she is deservedly dear. Trusting that you will hasten to fulfil all my wishes, I subscribe myself, Madam,

'Your very humble servant,

'DE SENNEVAL.'

"It

" It would be useless to repeat how many times I kissed this letter, how often I bathed it with my tears; nor can I give you the least idea of the joy I felt when the amiable Abbess presented me with my father's picture.—Oh, how anxious I was to be upon the road, to join this, my only surviving parent!

' I will set off to-morrow, Madam —suffer me to set off to-morrow; for every moment will appear an age, till I am once more enfolded in my father's arms! Surely the winds will second my impatience, since they will bear me to my father, my beloved father!'

' Your

'Your impatience delights me, my dear Adele. Mr. Edmond, to whom your father has also written, has sent me word that a vessel will sail for the Isle of France in three days, and that the Captain is both an honest man and an excellent sailor, and is very ready to take you on board. You will therefore lose no time in making the necessary preparations for your journey.'

'A thousand thanks, my dearest mother; for I am convinced you approve of my eagerness to leave you, though I can never forget the kindness with which you have treated me during the last twelve years.'

"But

"But not to enter into any farther details, suffice it to say, that early the next morning, I left the Convent of St. Clair, and immediately proceeded to Nantes, where I alighted at Mr. Edmond's, who gave me the most polite reception, and effectually prevented me from feeling any thing like *ennui* till the time of my embarkation.

"At last I went on board; but, upon losing sight of my native country, I could not refrain from shedding tears, and I felt very much alarmed when I found myself at the absolute mercy of the winds and waves. But the Captain soon reasoned me out of my idle fears, though

though I am inclined to think they arose from a presentiment of the misfortunes that were still in store for me: for I have never yet seen that father whom I was so impatient to join: and what must have been his uneasiness during these two years!"

A great noise, which seemed to proceed from the fort, induced me to return the manuscript into my bosom. Indeed the increasing darkness prevented me from reading any more; but as the noise increased, I resolved to return to the hermitage.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

Vox faucibus hæsit.

I FOUND Adele very uneasy.— "I am very much afraid," said I, "that our project has been discovered; for the Father has not yet returned."

"Indeed he makes it very late, as he must be aware of our anxiety."

"I will go to the fortress; possibly I may glean some intelligence."

"For

"For Heaven's sake, don't leave me alone, Mr. Bolding! Indeed I cannot endure the idea of your going to the fortress, till we have seen or heard from the Father. At all events, I am resolved to accompany you, that I may share your danger."

"My dear Adele, I will remain with you."

We therefore walked into the wood, to listen and to reconnoitre; but we could neither hear nor see any one. I grew more and more uneasy, and thus two hours elapsed; however as ten o'clock struck, I hastened to the gate of the burying-ground, in hopes that Sepulcrone

would soon relieve me from part of my anxiety.

I had hardly reached the spot, ere I saw him, by the glimmering light his lanthorn afforded, advancing towards me, bending under the weight of a sack which he had upon his shoulders.

"'Tis he, 'tis he," I exclaimed in a transport of joy, preparing the sum I had promised him.

"Are you there?" he enquired in a trembling voice.

"Yes, my good fellow, and here is your money, to which, ere long, I will make a farther addition."

Without even returning me thanks, he threw down the sack, and took to his heels. I was rather surprised at his behaviour; but being very anxious to deliver my prisoner, I hastily untied the sack, saying—

"Welcome once more to the land of the living, my friend! Let us return our thanks to Heaven for having succeeded so well."

I received no reply.

"Are you asleep, Signor Loganez?"

Still no answer! My blood ran cold. I wished to touch the body

of

of my friend, but could not muster sufficient courage; till, making a desperate effort, I seized his hand. It was cold as death!—I shook like an aspen-leaf; but, rousing all my courage, I placed my hand upon the heart—it had ceased to beat! I was near losing my senses. At last I tottered towards the hermitage; but felt too weak either to call or to knock; indeed no one could have heard me: for had the universe been offered me for a bribe, I could not have raised my voice; and, as my weakness and terror increased every succeeding moment, I fell against the door, which was forced open by my weight, and I thus made my entrance into the hermitage. I

heard various voices, and upon opening my eyes, found myself surrounded by Loganez, Adele, and the Hermit.

"Do not you recollect me?" said the former, kindly pressing my hand; while the good Hermit anxiously enquired what had alarmed me.

"It is indeed your friend," said Adele; "so do tell us what occasioned your fit?"

"You shall soon know," said I; "only follow me," leading the way, being perfectly recovered, to the burying-ground, where, having provided ourselves with a light, they soon caught sight of the object of

my

my terror.—" Now had not I reason to be alarmed, Signor Loganez? for when I expected to have pressed you in my arms, I found a dead body in your stead; and as it was too dark to allow me to distinguish the features, I was convinced that you had either been suffocated, or that Sepulcrone had killed you, preparatory to my dissecting you. God be praised, I was mistaken in my conjectures! But how came I to be thus led into so strange in error?"

" I will explain that matter perfectly to your satisfaction the moment we are in safety; for we must leave this island without loss of time. I hope we shall have no difficulty in so doing."

While

While talking, we were hastily proceeding towards the hermitage, which we had nearly reached, when we observed a body of soldiers advancing towards us, bearing torches in their hands, which enabled us to perceive them at some distance. Fearful that we were betrayed, and of course lost without redemption, Loganez ran into the wood, while the fainting Adele fell at the foot of a tree. Father Anastasio fell upon his knees, declaring we must throw ourselves upon the mercy of our enemies; and before I could decide upon what we ought to do, the soldiers made way for M. Zangelli.

"Stop,"

"Stop," said the Governor, "for you have nothing to fear, as you may safely reckon me among your best friends."

"What is it I hear?" said I.

"The truth."

Surprise now took place of our late terror. Adele recovered her senses, and Father Anastasio jumped upon his feet.

"Here, Father Angelini," said the Governor, addressing me, presenting me with a paper, "is a pardon in due form for Signor Loganez!"

"My pardon!" exclaimed Loganez, falling at his feet.

 Instantly

Instantly raising him, he caught him in his arms; then turning to me, said—

"Suffer me to embrace this humane and generous man, to whom you are in a great measure indebted for your life; and receive my sincere thanks, Father Angelini, for having prevented me from condemning an innocent man to death."

"Then I am free to tell you, my Lord," said Father Anastasio, "that the preserver of Signor Loganez is not, as you have hitherto supposed, a Monk of our Order, but Mr. Bolding."

"Ah! ah! Mr. Bolding! who has led so many people into so many errors,

errors, owing to his resemblance to Penelope de Serbellona!—Well, Sir, you have nothing now to fear; for M. de Serbellona is convinced of Signor Loganez's innocence: indeed he so sincerely repents of his conduct towards the latter gentleman, that he is more than anxious to make him all the amends in his power. Were it not so late, I would engage you to set out for Venice immediately; but as it is past eleven, I must entreat you would take up your abode for this night in the fortress."

Of course we were none of us inclined to put a negative upon this kind invitation, and our reception

was worthy of the commander of this state prison. The best apartment was prepared for Mademoiselle de Senneval, a smaller one was allotted to Father Anastasio, while Loganez and myself by choice occupied a two-bedded room; and as we were too happy to sleep, Loganez thus explained what had occasioned me so much alarm in the burying-ground.

"When you quitted me last night, after having closed the coffin over me, you left the jailer and the grave-digger in the chapel; when the latter, having convinced himself that you were out of hearing, confessed to his companion that he had agreed to give

give up the dead body to you for a certain sum of money, requesting his forgiveness for having concluded such a bargain, without having consulted him; adding—

'I have received this in advance, Barbarino, and am ready to divide it with you, if you will promise to keep my secret; and, in addition to this, I will give you half the sum I expect to receive.'

'Rascal!' replied the other, 'were the Governor to know what you have done, you would certainly be hanged without Judge or Jury!'

'Alas! my dear Barbarino, let us drink together.'

'Why, indeed, it is only upon those conditions that I can consent to hold my tongue.'

'Ah, but you don't know what I have been thinking of.'

'Pray how should I?'

'Why, I have been reflecting upon——'

'What, fool!—what wise reflections have you been making? What, I suppose your heart begins to fail you, now the time draws near; and so you mean to return the money.'

'Return the money!—no, God forbid! But could not there be a way of arranging matters?—for I have been thinking that if this prisoner comes of a good family, it is by no means unlikely that his body

body may be reclaimed; and then how should we account for having delivered him up to Father Angelini, who means, if I understand him right, to cut him up into pound pieces?'

'Why, true, that might be attended with serious consequences, particularly after what I have heard.'

'And pray what have you heard? Do tell me!'

'Why, they do say, though I don't vouch for the truth, that this poor devil was in the wrong to have made away with himself.'

'Indeed!'

'They do, since a courier arrived not an hour ago, who I understand brought his pardon.'

'His pardon!—the Lord forgive me, Barbarino! What is it you tell me?'

"Judge, my dear Bolding, what were my feelings upon this unexpected discovery, which induced me to give a scream, that greatly alarmed the speakers.

'Did not you hear something?' said Barbarino.

'Indeed I did!' said Sepulcrone. 'I tremble every limb of me! It was certainly a warning, my dear friend.'

'Fool! these arches are so extensive and so high, that I am convinced it was only the echo.'

'Are

'Are you sure it was only the echo? —Why, I believe you are afraid: to judge by your countenance, you are not more courageous than myself. Indeed I begin to think some misfortune will befal us! This cursed prisoner——'

'Coward! you a grave-digger!'

'True; but what the devil could have induced me to have promised! Oh my God! how many follies does money make people commit! Here I suffered myself to be bribed——'

'Sepulcrone!'

'Well.'

'I have had an excellent idea just come across me.'

'What is it you mean? Don't keep me in suspense!'

'Why, I think I can put you in the way of getting the money, without parting with the prisoner.'

'Indeed!'

'Yes; one of the invalids belonging to the garrison, died this morning. No one will enquire what became of his body; and surely his corpse will be as good to cut into pieces as any other person's.'

'Holy Virgin!' cried the delighted Sepulcrone, 'suffer me to embrace you, my dear Barbarino! Your idea is sublime! As it will be very dark when I meet Father Angelini, he will not be able to discover the cheat I mean to put upon him; and if he has but something to

display

display his talents upon, I dare say he will be very well satisfied.'

"As this *sublime idea* of Barbarino's would have deranged all our plans, and I was resolved not to be buried alive, I jumped upright in my coffin, overturning every thing that surrounded me, exclaiming—

'Oh! Oh! rascals!'

Sepulcrone endeavoured to fly; but his legs being unable to bear his weight, he soon fell all his length; while the still more terrified Barbarino let fall his bunch of keys, which I instantly seized.

'Tremble, wretches!' said I in a terrible voice, 'tremble!--The Almighty has overheard your wicked designs, and will punish your criminal intentions!'

"These words having increased their terror, I took to my heels, and ran out of the chapel, taking the precaution to double lock the door after me, that I might gain time to make my escape. Barbarino's keys opened every door, and the darkness of the night favoured my evasion. In a few minutes I was once more at liberty. Once without the walls, I returned my thanks where they were the most due, for my late miraculous escape; but before

before I had risen from my knees, I heard the sound of the chapel bell, which convinced me that Babarino and Sepulcrone, having rather recovered from their terrible fright, wished to give the alarm in the prison; and as a strong tumult succeeded the sound of the bell, I thought it most prudent to seek some retreat: so having reached the banks of the Spazzo, I tried to conceal myself under the rocks that border the river. Boldly advancing into the first cavity I met with, and having walked for some time, I ventured to sit down, thinking myself in safety, when I heard a sigh very near me, and soon after, some one complaining in a low voice.

'Who

'Who is there?' said I, resolving to sell my life very dearly.

'A friend,' replied a weak and trembling voice; 'so be you who you may, don't betray me,' seizing me by the arm while speaking.

'Who are you?' I repeated in an angry tone, 'who are you?'

'Oh, don't be afraid, for I have no intention to hurt you.'

'Who are you?' I repeated.

"You will laugh, I dare say, my dear Bolding, though you possibly already guess who it was."

'Indeed I do not.'——In vain I puzzled my brains.

'It was Father Anastasio, our poor hermit himself, who, having heard

heard the chapel bell as he was retiring from the fortress, thinking, like myself, that all was discovered, he had sought a refuge among those rocks. He was scarcely less surprised when I told him who I was, and what had induced me to leave the fortress; when we thought it would be most prudent to return to the hermitage, and to leave the island as soon as possible, with you and Adele: and having silently walked round the fortress, where no one seemed to be stirring, we hastened to the hermitage, which we had just reached, when you fell headlong in amongst us. You are acquainted with what befel us afterwards, and I presume Sepulcrone

brought you the dead body, in hopes of earning the promised reward."

Having thus concluded his recital, both Loganéz and myself fell fast asleep, and did not wake till past ten the following morning, when we understood that Adele was waiting breakfast for us in Zangelli's saloon. I shall not repeat all the compliments that passed on every side; but having made an excellent breakfast; I enquired of the Governor by what means we could soonest reach Venice, as I was rather puzzled how we should ever get there: for neither Loganéz nor myself had a farthing of money, and it was rather

rather too long a journey to undertake on foot. M. Zangelli, in reply, assured me that he had made every necessary preparation, politely offering me and Loganez the use of his wardrobe. He then sent us in a boat across the Spazza; and on the other side, an excellent carriage was in waiting to receive us: but we had not proceeded more than a mile, ere our carriage was surrounded by four soldiers.

"What does this mean?" said I; "are we betrayed?"

"Stop the postillions," said Loganez.

I did

I did so; and, addressing one of the soldiers, I asked by whose orders we were thus surrounded.

"By those of the Governor of Spirtzberg."

"Whither are you conducting us?"

"To Venice."

"But are we at liberty?"

"Perfectly so; we shall merely attend you thither by M. Zangelli's orders, to prevent you from being robbed."

Of course all our expences were paid by our brave escort; and at last we reached M. de Serbellona's, who received

received us with tears of joy, entreating we would forget the past, as he would endeavour to make us ample amends for all the sorrows he had occasioned us; indeed he seemed to think he could not do enough for us. He presented Mademoiselle de Senneval with a set of jewels, and me with the title-deeds of a small estate, which he insisted upon my accepting; and, situated as I was, without money and without friends, and besides in a strange country, I thought I could not do a better thing, as I resolved to spend the remainder of my life in this delightful retreat.

Father

Father Anastasio readily accepted an apartment in my house. Mademoiselle de Senneval wished to have set sail once more for the Isle of France; but upon my promising to write to her father, and to explain every thing to his satisfaction, she gave up the idea, and I resolved to lose no time in seeking Dr. Papirio, as I was all impatience to unite my destiny to that of Adele. But I ought not to forget that we had no sooner taken possession of Buona-monte, than Signor Loganez sent me a letter, and a pocket-book containing two hundred thousand livres in bank-notes, in return for the one I had given the surgeon at the

the fortress; declaring he should still consider himself greatly in my debt, and that he should frequently enliven our retreat by his presence.

CHAP. VII.

Lenitur mœror, et quies tandem dulcis.

BEING now very comfortably settled, I had full leisure to finish Adele's manuscript, which I shall give, as before, in her own words.

"The vessel, on board of which I had embarked, was named the Rapid; and she might certainly have

have been deemed an excellent sailer. The Captain fully answered the description Mr. Edmond had given me of him; but his Lieutenant was far from being equally polite: for he often ill treated the sailors, beat the boys, and paid little or no attention to the passengers: yet I had some reason to suppose that he regarded me with the eyes of affection. Nor was I mistaken; for he soon informed me that he had taken a very great liking to me from the first moment he caught sight of me, making me an immediate offer of his hand and heart.—As he had ever inspired me with the greatest contempt, I replied to his offers in the most disdainful tone, which so irritated

irritated him, that he swore I should be his at every risk.

"From that time I carefully avoided him; and having been under the necessity of complaining to the Captain, that brave man assured him he would put him in irons, if he tormented me any more with his odious declarations of love.

"In reply to these threats, the Lieutenant openly acknowledged his regard for me, telling the Captain that he had no right to interfere with his actions, except in what regarded the management of the ship; therefore if he did but do his duty as a seaman, he would have

no

no right to display his boasted authority.

"The Captain, who felt himself unable to reply to this argument, told him very quietly that his behaviour was, at all events, unworthy of a French officer, and that he desired him henceforth to consider me as absolutely under his protection; and for a time, peace and harmony were established amongst us, for a week elapsed without the Lieutenant ever having spoke to me, and I was in hopes that he had given up all thoughts of me: but the traitor had merely concealed the resentment he felt, having resolved to make the Captain pay very dearly for

having dared to threaten him. In consequence, he soon made himself a party among the sailors, whom he easily bribed to second his schemes, notwithstanding their former animosity towards him.

"The Captain, aware of his intentions, at last ordered him into irons; but his orders were issued too late, for the whole crew rose against him, and put him in irons instead of the Lieutenant, who, in consequence of this unjustifiable action, took the command of the ship, and drew up a long list of complaints against the Captain, which he forced the crew to sign.

"This

"'This unexpected event greatly alarmed me, and induced me to implore the protection of the other passengers, who all swore to defend me against any violence the Lieutenant might dare to offer me. For a short time these kind offers rather tranquillized me; but the insolent speeches of the Lieutenant soon renewed all my fears, when, by way of avoiding his persecutions, I affected to treat him with less severity, and even listened with some degree of patience to his conversation, telling him if he had any wish to please me, he must be both submissive and respectful; since I might grant many favours to a lover of that description, which I should

certainly refuse to a tyrannical insulting master; hoping, by this innocent deceit, to delay time, and that Providence would send me some assistance when least expected.

"In consequence of my suggestions, the Lieutenant endeavoured to treat me with something like politeness, though, tiger-like, he was only waiting for a favourable moment to devour his unfortunate victim.

"We had been about a month at sea, the greatest part of which I had spent in the most uncomfortable manner, when this rascal came one morning into my room, and had the

the insolence to address me as follows:—

'You have amused me long enough, Mademoiselle, with chimerical hopes; you must therefore resolve to gratify my passion at once! Resistance is vain; for every one on board is in my interest. As for the passengers, I have made sure of them; for the sleeping draught which they took with their breakfast, has already had the desired effect: they can therefore neither hear nor assist you. In other respects, you need be under no apprehensions respecting your reputation, admitting you are restrained by so absurd a prejudice; for no one need

know of our intimacy, as you may depend upon my discretion, if you will but gratify the wishes of him who tenderly adores you!'

"Without waiting for my answer, the monster seized me in his arms, when several piercing screams rent the air, and a broadside was fired into the vessel.—'To arms!—to arms!' was the general cry. The alarmed Lieutenant left his hold, and rushed upon the deck to enquire into the cause of this unexpected attack. Scarcely had he reached his post, ere a cannon-ball terminated his existence; but I was not allowed time even to thank Heaven for this unexpected deliverance; as I had

I had merely escaped one misfortune to be rendered, if possible, still more miserable, since several men seized me, whose strange dress and dark countenances terrified me so much, that I rent the air with my screams, till my strength failing, I was conveyed on board the other vessel, where I learned, to my increasing sorrow, from my companions in misery, that I had fallen into the hands of an Algerine pirate, whose prisoner of course I was, and as I was young and handsome, I should probably be sent to Constantinople, to increase the number of the Grand Signor's wives."

In the following part of the manuscript, Adele dwelt very strongly upon the impression I had made upon her, even during our first meeting; nor did she dwell less forcibly upon the grief she felt, when we were so almost immediately separated. But these are details the reader has already been made acquainted with. I have also related her having been put on board a vessel bound to Constantinople, which, by a very strange concurrence of circumstances, I afterwards had the good fortune to seize. Be it also remembered, that we were wrecked upon the coast of Sicily, and that Adele, as I feared, had been swallowed up by the waves. I

shall now relate, in her own words, by what miracle she was preserved in time of danger.

Conclusion of the Manuscript.

"I should be really at a loss to tell you how I was preserved, though I understand that a fisherman having found me upon the shore, and thinking me absolutely dead, had carried me upon his back to the village Church, that I might at all events have the benefit of a Christian burial. This induced the worthy Curate to examine me very attentively, when, perceiving that my

heart still beat, he employed the usual means to restore me to my senses; and I need not add that his charitable intentions were crowned with success.

"I remained a whole month under the roof of this venerable Pastor; and as my resurrection had made a great noise in the environs, the Curate was considered as a saint among his flock, who added to a recital of the miracles which he had wrought in my favour, various details very flattering to my self-love. I was, according to these good people, the most beautiful girl they had ever seen.

"A nobleman

"A nobleman who resided in the neighbourhood, was curious to see if I deserved these praises, which induced him to pay my benefactor a visit. This respectable old man invited him to dinner, thus unintentionally seconding the views of his noble neighbour.

"Mr. Mendozze overwhelmed me with his compliments, and was even profuse in his offers of service; adding—'Our Pastor must not think to monopolize the right of being charitable to those strangers whom chance or misfortune conducts towards these shores.—I am no less hospitable, and do not chuse to be deprived of all my privileges.'

"Polite as was this discourse, I was nevertheless inclined to make some very serious reflections; for it gave me reason to suppose I had made but too favourable an impression upon him. Unfortunately my fears were but too well founded, as Mr. Mendozze added that he should not have taken the liberty of proposing my removing from the Curate's, if he had not been convinced I should enjoy his mother's society, who had commissioned him to invite me to their house, where I might remain in safety, till an opportunity occurred which might enable me to proceed to the East Indies. (It may be supposed that I had given him to understand I was

going thither, when I was so unfortunately shipwrecked.)

" The Curate strenuously advised my accepting of Mr. Mendozze's offers. Of course, I could not put a negative upon his kind invitation, and he soon took his leave, promising to send a carriage the next day to convey me to Bibola, the name of his seat; and early the next morning, a carriage stopped at the door. I could not restrain my tears when taking leave of the hospitable Curate, who sent a very respectful message to Mr. Mendozze, promising to take an early opportunity to enquire after my health.

" In

"In less than three hours I reached Bibola. Mr. Mendozze presented me his hand at the carriage door, and led me into a superb saloon, where I found an old lady, dressed in the fashion of the last century, who received me with open arms, even bestowing a little of the rouge with which her cheeks were bedaubed, upon me, in the warmth of her embraces.

'My mother,' said Mr. Mendozze, 'who has been impatiently expecting your arrival——'

'Madam, I have many excuses to make.'

'Not at all, my dear child, not at all; I shall rejoice to have such a com-

a companion. My son has told me your story; but I will not awaken unpleasant recollections, for I wish to render you completely happy.'

'Madam, my only wish is now to join my father.'

'Nothing can be more praiseworthy, my child; and I hope you will see him even sooner than you expect.'

"In short, Mrs. Mendozze seemed so much interested in my concerns, that I soon began to feel the greatest esteem for her; while her son seemed only anxious to contribute to my felicity.

"One morning, having risen rather earlier than ordinary, I perceived

perceived my toilet covered with rich presents. Curiosity induced me to examine every thing, when, upon removing a vase of flowers, I discovered underneath, the following note:—

'Proud rival! possibly you hope to enjoy your triumph; but tremble for your fate!—for the traitor who has seduced you, has abandoned me. You will therefore soon become both indifferent and contemptible in his eyes!'

"What

" What was I to do, or rather, what could I do? To fly would have been absurd, for I was resolved to discover the meaning of this strange letter; therefore, taking it in my hand, I flew to the apartment of Mrs. Mendozze: but judge what was my indignation and my despair, when, upon reaching her anti-chamber, I overheard the following discourse.

' Pray make haste, Sir,'—(it was the pretended Mrs. Mendozze that was speaking)—' pray make haste; your mother will be here in a few days, and might not enjoy my appearing as her representative.'

' Have

'Have a little patience, my dear Petrone,' said the base Mendozze; 'only have a little patience, and she will fall into our snares. No one would suspect that you were only my housekeeper, for no one can act the fine lady better.'

'All this is mighty fine, Sir; meanwhile, if you do not hasten your attempt, all your schemes will be blown to the devil.'

'I had it in contemplation to have seized a favourable opportunity during the *fête* I mean to give her this evening.'

'You can't do better, for I believe she likes you; and I shall rejoice when I am able to inform her who I really am.'

'The

'The monster!' I exclaimed, flying from the anti chamber; and indignation giving me strength, I left the Castle, and took the first road that presented itself, without knowing whither it led.

"Having walked pretty fast for two hours or more, I found myself at the entrance of a wood, where I seated myself at the foot of a tree, by way of resting my wearied limbs, when I heard several people conversing at no great distance. I rose, and slowly approached the place from whence the voices proceeded, when I overheard what follows:—

'I trust,

'I trust, my friends,' said a woman, 'you will soon rid me of this odious rival; for I wish the perfidious Mendozze should learn to what lengths revenge will carry an injured woman; and he means to give my rival a *fête* this evening: but I hope to prevent her enjoying the pleasures that are in store for her. Only second my vengeance, and trust to my generosity!'

'Beautiful Angelica!' replied one of the conspirators, 'you may depend upon our zeal and our courage.—Mendozze has offended you, and we will revenge your injuries; for I here swear that, ere the morning dawns, your rival shall be far removed from Bibola!'

"Several

"'Several voices swore to the same effect.

'Generous friends,' said Angelica, 'you have rendered me completely happy; but let us separate, for fear we should awaken suspicions. Should the young French woman fall into your hands, you know whither to convey her.'

'Stop!' I cried, rushing in amongst them, and falling at the feet of Angelica 'stop—it is I you are seeking!—it is I whom you wish to sacrifice to your jealousy!—I, who do not deserve your hatred, and whom you ought to pity and protect!'

"Suffocated

"Suffocated with my tears, for a time I could say no more, till, having found relief from the excess of my sorrow, I thus proceeded:—

'Revenge yourself if you please, Ma'am, for I am now in your power: I had rather suffer any torments you may chuse to make me endure, than to become the prey of a base seducer! Your note, for it was certainly to you I am indebted for having opened my eyes, has possibly preserved both my honour and my life; I shall therefore for-ever feel grateful towards you, for having, though unintentionally, done me so great a favour.'

'You

'You are indeed to be pitied,' said Angelica, whom my tears had greatly softened. 'My friends,' said she, turning to those by whom she was surrounded, 'leave me, for I no longer require your services.'—Then extending her hand to me—'Rise, and depend upon my protection. Mendozze has deceived me; but you are only to be pitied: he vainly endeavoured to seduce your innocence. I therefore pity, and am resolved to protect you.'

"Consoled by these kind promises, I readily followed Angelica, who led me towards a carriage that was in waiting, which soon set us down at a villa, where she generally resided;

resided; and to her I told my sorrowful story, detailing the fatal circumstance which had induced me to become the guest of Mr. Mendozze.

"Angelica's indignation kept pace with mine.

'He is a wretch!' she cried, 'yet I love him, notwithstanding all his errors; and as I never wish him to see you again, I propose sending you immediately to Venice, where you may once more embark for the Indies. I shall recommend you to a relation of mine, Mr. Manfredino, who will provide you with every thing you may stand in need of, for your

your voyage. All that I require of you in return, is, that you will write to me as soon as you reach the Isle of France, where I hope to learn in due time that you are safely arrived.'

" I readily agreed to her kind proposal; and in consequence of her arrangements, I left her house the next morning.

" During my journey, I learned, from the woman who accompanied me, that Angelica was descended from a rich and noble Venetian family, and that she had refused twenty excellent matches entirely for the love of Mendozze, who so ill requited her affections. I greatly

pitied her, and sincerely wished she might be able to forget her seducer; who, having led her to violate every form of decency, had, in return, left her a prey to despair, and all anxiety to revenge her wrongs.

"At Venice I was set down at the Count de Manfredino's, who, far from seconding his relation's intentions, kept me in an absolute state of confinement from the moment of my arrival, merely because I had had the misfortune to please him. But I shall not dwell upon this part of my story; for you were destined to rescue me from his tyranny."

The

The rest of the manuscript was merely full of my praises;—modesty therefore induces me to suppress the concluding lines, as I have yet some events to relate to the reader, in which he may feel more interested.

Having placed Adele under the care of the good Anastasio, and provided her with a proper suite of servants, I returned to Venice, in hopes of making some farther discoveries respecting Dr. Papirio.

Loganez and the noble Serbellona strongly seconded my researches, which were attended with the

desired success; for I at last learned that Dr. Papirio, who had long been known by reputation in Germany, was now retained at the Court of Vienna, in quality of physician 'extraordinary to the Emperor.

I immediately set off for that city, where, as if on purpose to retard my return to Buona-monte, I found that the father of Sylvia had departed for Berlin the day before I reached Vienna.

This I wrote to Mademoiselle de Senneval, for I was resolved to continue my journey in search of him. I therefore proceeded through several

several little principalities, till I reached the frontiers of Prussia, where I was obliged to stop at Wirlach, which was garrisoned by Hanoverian troops. They asked to see my passport, which I immediately presented; but as they also wished to search my baggage, I thought it necessary to alight: and having repaired to an inn, I meant to have ordered some refreshment; but upon entering the court, I perceived the innkeeper was beating his wife most unmercifully with a large oaken stick.

The moment I appeared, the victim of his fury flung herself at

my feet, and greatly increased both my astonishment and my indignation by saying, in good French—

"Save me, dearest Sir, from the fury of this monster, with whom I can no longer remain!—for this is the way he always serves me!"

The husband abused her most terribly in German, giving me to understand that she had had an intrigue with one of the inferior Hanoverian officers. At last, however, I restored peace between them, by telling the husband that he was not to blame, and the wife, that she was greatly to be pitied; which done, I

left them to their reflections, being in haste to pursue my journey. But the first time I stopped to change horses, having again alighted, I perceived the innkeeper's wife seated behind my carriage, who told me that she was resolved to return to France; for she had rather beg her bread, than remain any longer subjected to the tyranny of so vile a husband.

Shortly after, we separated, and I proceeded to Berlin, where I soon found out Dr. Papirio, who was not a little surprised to see me. We both shed tears at meeting, and I easily convinced him that I had

not

not intentionally deserted him at Naples.

"My daughter loved you dearly," said he; "and your strange flight certainly hastened her dissolution. Here is her picture, which she desired me to give you, should we ever meet again."

I covered it with kisses, consoling myself with reflecting that Adele possessed all the virtues of Sylvia.

Now possibly, dear reader, you flatter yourself that the conclusion of my adventures will be as tragical as the beginning, and that I shall

be obliged to kill at least twenty people, to wind up my story in style. If such are your expectations, you will be most wofully disappointed; for, having taken a tender leave of Dr. Papirio, I hastened back to Buona-monte, where Father Anastasio united me to Adele, and remained with us, to witness and to participate in our felicity.

Loganez and the Count de Serbellona frequently visit us; and we are also blessed with the society of Adele's beloved father, who has quitted the Isle of France, to settle in our neighbourhood, where we live like one family, and have long since forgotten

forgotten all our past misfortunes. Whether there are any more in store for us, will be seen at some future time, though I fear I am not fated to terminate my existence at Buona-monte.

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